

## Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEIDATE 2361

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6293

NODISVV

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT TO SEOUL BY CONGRESSMEN HAMILTON AND SPENCE

REF: (A) STATE 181873, (B) SEOUL 6229

1. AT MY REQUEST I MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AT HIS RESIDENCE LATE AFTERNOON JULY 19 TO CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS REF A. I INFORMED THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT WE NOW HAD A BETTER IDEA OF WHAT SPEAKER O'NEILL WAS THINKING OF ON THE KIM DONG-JO MATTER. SPECIFICALLY, THE SPEAKER HAD ASKED CONGRESSMAN HAMILTON AND THE MINORITY LEADER HAD ASKED CONGRESSMAN SPENCE IF THEY WOULD VISIT SEOUL TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT PARK. I STATED THAT IW AS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO REQUEST AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE PRESIDENT FOR THE TWO CONGRESSMEN. IT WAS HOPED THAT THE TIMING OF THEIR VISIT COULD BE ACCELERATED AND THEY WERE PREPARED TO ARRIVE AS EARLY AS TUESDAY, JULY 25. WHILE I DID NOT HAVE FULL DETAILS ON THE CONGRESSIONAL PROPOSAL, I DID EXPLAIN TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT THE TWO CONGRESSMEN WISHED TO GIVE A FIRST-HAND STATEMENT TO THE PREISENT ON THE DILEMMA NOW BEING FACED BY THE COMMITTEE AND CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS REGARDING KIM DONG-JO AND TO REQUEST THE PRESIDENT'S COOPERATION IN FINDING SOME MANNER IN WHICH THE COMMITTEE COULD GAIN ACCESS TO HIM. THEY WOULD WISH TO EXPLAIN HOW THE DIFFERENT ELEMENTS OF CONGRESS FEEL AT THIS JUNCTURE

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AND THE NEED TO BRING THE INVESTIGATION TO THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE CONCLUSION.

2. I POINTED OUT THAT THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS OF DISCUSSING THIS MATTER WITH CONGRESS THE DEPARTMENT HAD MADE VERY CLEAR THE ROKG POSITION STRESSING THE APPLICABILITY OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION. I REITERAOED THE

POINTS I HAD MADE THE PREVIOUS DAY (REF B) ON THE NEED FOR THE MOST POSITIVE RESPONSE POSSIBLE FROM THE ROKG AND STRESSED THAT THE TWO CONGRESSMEN SELECTED WERE BOTH SOUND AND WELL-RESPECTED MEMBERS WHICH WAS FURTHER REASON FOR AVOIDING AN AUTOMATIC NEGATIVE RESPONSE FROM THE ROKG. I ADDED THAT A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT WOULD PROVIDE THE ROKG WITH AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO PLACE ITS POSITION AGAIN CLEARLY BEFORE THE CONGRESS IN THE MOST POSITIVE TERMS. I CONCLUDED THAT I WAS EXPECTING A CABLE ON THE FOLLOWING DAY GIVING ME THE CONTENTS OF A LETTER WHICH THE CONGRESSMEN WOULD CARRY.

3. THE FOREIGN MINISTER STATED THAT WITHOUT FULL DETAILS ON THE CONGRESSIONAL PROPOSAL IT WAS DIFFICULT TO MAKE A COMMENT. HE STATED THAT THE ROKG HAD MADE ITS POSITION CLEAR, MOST RECENTLY TO THE DEPARTMENT ON JULY 17. HE STRESSED THAT THE ROKG HAD REITERATED ITS POSITION IN AN EFFORT TO ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT IN BRINGING THIS MATTER TO A CONCLUSION. HE NOTED THAT EVEN THOUGH FORMER AMBASSADOR KIM WAS NOW A PRIVATE CITIZEN, IF QUESTIONS WERE PUT TO HIM THE ROKG WOULD MAKE ITS BEST EFFORTS TO SEE THAT FULL RESPONSE WAS FORTHCOMING AND THAT THE MATTER WAS TAKEN SERIOUSLY. IN THIS RESPECT HE NOTED THAT THE RESULTS COULD BE EXPECTED TO BE DIFFERENT FROM THE "NEWSWEEK" ARTICLE (I.E. MORE INFORMATIVE).  
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4. THE FOREIGN MINISTER WENT ON TO SAY THAT BASED ON PRESENT INFORMATION HE DID NOT SEE HOW HE COULD MAKE A POSITIVE PRESENTATION TO THE PRESIDENT SINCE THE DELEGATION WOULD APPEAR TO BE IN THE NATURE OF AN INVESTIGATION. HE SAID THAT HE WAS HAVING DIFFICULTY WITH PUBLIC REACTION AT THE PRESENT AND COULD NOT PREDICT WHAT THE REACTION WOULD BE TO SUCH A VISIT. WITH RESPECT TO THIS I NOTED THAT IT WAS MY BELIEF THAT THE CONGRESSMEN WOULD NOT WISH TO SEE KIM DONG-JO WHILE THEY WERE IN SEOUL BUT RATHER SIMPLY TO MAKE AN APPEAL TO THE PRESIDENT AND TO LEAVE THE CONTACT WITH KIM TO OTHERS. THE FOREIGN MINISTER STATED THAT WHILE HE COULD NOT SPEAK FOR THE PRESIDENT IT APPEARED THAT THE SPEAKER'S PROPOSAL WAS A RETREAT OF SEVERAL STEPS FROM PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS. HE STATED THAT THE ROKG WAS WILLING TO HELP THE CONGRESS BUT CONTINUED TO BE BOUND BY THE VIENNA CONVENTION. I AGAIN URGED A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSAL IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN TO HAVE THE CONGRESSMEN HEAR FIRSTHAND A POSITIVE STATEMENT OF THE ROKG POSITION.

5. THE FOREIGN MINISTER REITERATED THAT THE CONGRESS WAS AWARE OF THE ROKG POSITION AND THE VISIT WOULD ONLY SERVE TO ALLOW THE ROKG TO REPEAT ITSELF SINCE IT COULD NOT RETREAT FROM ITS CURRENT STAND. IN SUCH AN EVENT THE CONGRESSMEN MIGHT FEEL THAT THEY HAD NO RECOURSE BUT TO CUT SECURITY ASSISTANCE IN THE SAME MANNER AS THEY HAD PL-480. SHOULD THAT HAPPEN THE ROK WOULD NOT REACT BUT WOULD ACCEPT SUCH CUTS. GIVEN SUCH A SCENARIO, A VISIT WOULD ONLY MAKE THE SITUATION WORSE AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE WOULD BE UNABLE TO RECOMMEND THAT THE PRESIDENT AGREE TO IT. I COUNTERED THAT A RESULT SUCH AS THAT FORESEEN BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD BE DAMAGING NOT ONLY TO THE U.S. BUT ALSO TO KOREA AND THAT

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WE SHOULD NOT ALLOW IT TO HAPPEN. I URGED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER NOT SLAM THE DOOR BUT WAIT UNTIL WE HAD THE TEXT OF THE LETTER TO BE PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT, FOLLOWING WHICH I HOPED HE WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE A POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION ON THE VISIT.

6. THE FOREIGN MINISTER RESPONDED THAT HE STILL DID NOT HAVE A FINAL VIEW ON THE MATTER. HE NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL HOLIDAY SCHEDULE HAD ALREADY BEEN REVISED TO ACCOMMODATE MY PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS (NOW SCHEDULE FOR JULY 24) AND THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD PROBABLY BE LEAVING SEOUL ON THE 25TH. HE SAID THAT THE ROKG UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD RELATIONS WITH CONGRESS AND THE U.S. PUBLIC AND THEREFORE WISHED TO COOPERATE. HE THEREFORE URGED THAT SPECIFIC QUESTIONS BE SENT TO KIM DONG-JO AND ASSURED ME THAT HE WOULD RESPOND.

7. IT WAS AGREED THAT WE WOULD DISCUSS THIS MATTER FURTHER FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF LETTER TEXT.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**TAGS:** PGOV, OREP, KS, US, (HAMILTON, LEE H), (KIM DONG-JO), (SPENCE, FLOYD D), (PAK TONG-CHIN)  
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